

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
WESTERN DIVISION**

ANDREW K. KHOUNE, on behalf of himself  
and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

DAEDONG-USA, INC. (KIOTI TRACTOR  
DIVISION),

Defendant.

Case No. 5:25-cv-00216-D

BRIAN POLLARD, on behalf of himself and  
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

DAEDONG-USA, INC., d/b/a KIOTI  
TRACTOR DIVISION, and DAEDONG,  
INC.,

Defendants.

Case No. 5:25-cv-00279-D

JOHN VIVERETTE, individually, and on  
behalf of himself and all others similarly  
situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

DAEDONG-USA, INC.,

Defendant.

Case No. 5:25-cv-00277-D

**ORDER**

THIS MATTER is before the Court upon Plaintiffs Andrew K. Khouné, Brian Pollard,

and John Viverette's Motion to Consolidate and Appoint Interim Lead Counsel. For the reasons stated in Plaintiffs' Motion and for good cause shown, **IT IS ORDERED** that the Motion is **GRANTED** as set forth below.

1. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(a), the Court hereby consolidates (1) *Khoune v. Daedong-USA, Inc. (Kioti Tractor Division)*, Case No. 5:25-cv-00216-D, (2) *Pollard v. Daedong-USA, Inc. d/b/a Kioti Tractor Division, et al.*, 5:25-cv-00279-D; and (3) *Viverette v. Daedong-USA, Inc.*, Case No. 5:25-cv-00277-D (collectively, the "Related Actions"), under the first filed action, Case No. 5:25-cv-00216-D, and with the new title "*In re Daedong-USA Data Security Incident Litigation.*"

2. No further filings shall be made in cases 5:25-cv-00277-D and 5:25-cv-00279-D, which shall be administratively closed. All pleadings therein maintain their legal relevance until the filing of the Consolidated Complaint. The Consolidated Complaint shall be filed within the next thirty (30) days, as further set forth below. This Order shall apply to any subsequently filed putative class action alleging the same or substantially similar allegations.

3. All papers previously filed and served to date in the Related Actions are deemed part of the record in the Consolidated Action.

4. Plaintiffs shall file a Notice of Related Case whenever a case that should be consolidated into this action is filed in, or transferred to, this District. If any party objects to such consolidation or otherwise wishes to seek alternative relief, they shall do so within ten (10) calendar days. If the Court determines that the case is related, the clerk shall:

- a. Place a copy of this Order in the separate docket for such action;
- b. Serve on Plaintiffs' counsel in the new case a copy of this Order;
- c. Direct this Order to be served upon Defendant(s) in the new case; and

d. Make the appropriate entry on the Master Docket.

5. The Court shall enter a scheduling order for further pretrial proceedings as soon as is reasonably practicable.

6. Plaintiffs in the Consolidated Action shall file an operative Consolidated Complaint within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order. Defendant shall have thirty (30) days from the date on which Plaintiffs file the Consolidated Complaint to file a response thereto. In the event that Defendant's response is a motion to dismiss, Plaintiffs shall have thirty (30) days to file their opposition brief, and Defendant shall have twenty-one (21) days to file a reply brief.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, having given due consideration to the relevant factors set forth in Rule 23(g)(1) and (4), including, without limitation, Rule 23(g)(1)(A)(i)-(iv), and finding that the proposed counsel meet the adequacy requirements thereunder, Daniel Srourian of Srourian Law Firm, P.C., Leigh S. Montgomery of EKSM, LLP, and Brittany Resch of Strauss Borrelli, PLLC are appointed as Interim Co-Lead Class Counsel

The Interim Co-Lead Class Counsel will be responsible for and have plenary authority to prosecute any and all claims of Plaintiffs and the putative class and to provide general supervision of the activities of Plaintiffs' counsel in the Consolidated Action. Specifically, the Interim Co-Lead Class Counsel shall have the following responsibilities, duties and sole authority to:

- a. Draft and file the master consolidated complaint, and have final authority regarding what claims and parties are to be included;
- b. Determine and present in pleadings, briefs, motions, oral argument, or such other fashion as may be appropriate, personally or by a designee, to the Court and opposing parties the position of Plaintiffs and the putative class on matters arising during the pretrial proceedings;

- c. Coordinate and conduct discovery on behalf of Plaintiffs and the putative class consistent with the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of this Court;
- d. Consult with and employ consultants and/or expert witnesses;
- e. Draft and file a motion for class certification on behalf of Plaintiffs and the putative class;
- f. Conduct all pre-trial proceedings on behalf of Plaintiffs and the putative class;
- g. Enter into stipulations and agreements with Defendant;
- h. Sign all papers filed on behalf of Plaintiffs and the putative class;
- i. Convene meetings of all Plaintiffs' counsel, as necessary;
- j. Form task-specific subcommittees of Plaintiffs' counsel, as appropriate;
- k. Conduct settlement negotiations with Defendant;
- l. Maintain an up-to-date service list of all Plaintiffs' counsel for all consolidated cases, and promptly advise the Court and Defendant's counsel of changes thereto;
- m. Receive and distribute to Plaintiffs' counsel, as appropriate, discovery, pleadings correspondence, and other documents from Defendant's counsel or the Court that are not electronically filed;
- n. Appear at Court-noticed status conferences and hearings;
- o. Be the contact persons for all Plaintiffs' counsel and as the attorneys of record with whom the Court will be dealing throughout the course of the litigation;

- p. Delegate specific tasks to other Plaintiffs' counsel in a manner to avoid duplicative efforts and ensure that pretrial preparation for Plaintiffs and the putative class is conducted effectively, efficiently, and economically;
- q. Otherwise coordinate the work of all Plaintiffs' counsel, and perform such other duties as the Executive Leadership Committee deems necessary to advance the litigation or as authorized by further Order of the Court;
- r. Maintain and collect time and expense records for work performed, time billed, costs incurred and other disbursements made by Plaintiffs' counsel whose work the Executive Leadership Committee has specifically authorized, and submit at the Court's request, in writing, *ex parte* and *in camera* reports to the Court regarding time billed in the prosecution of this action;
- s. Fund the necessary and appropriate costs of discovery and other common benefit efforts; and
- t. Perform such other functions as necessary to effectuate these responsibilities or as may be expressly authorized by further Order of the Court.

It is the Court's intent that, as to all matters common to these coordinated cases, and to the fullest extent consistent with the independent fiduciary obligations owed by any and all Plaintiffs' counsel to their clients and any putative class, pretrial proceedings shall be conducted by and through Interim Co-Lead Class Counsel.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that all other plaintiffs' counsel who are or may become involved in the Consolidated Action are prohibited from taking any action on behalf of the putative

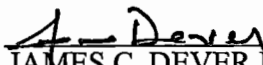
class in this Consolidated Action without advance authorization from Interim Co-Lead Class Counsel except for an application to modify or be relieved from this Order.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the mere communication of otherwise privileged information among and between Plaintiffs' counsel shall not be deemed a waiver of the attorney-client privilege or the attorney work product immunity, as the Court recognizes that cooperation by and among counsel is essential for the orderly and expeditious resolution of this litigation.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that counsel for all parties are directed to cooperate with one another, wherever possible, to promote the expeditious handling of pre-trial proceedings in the Consolidated Action, and to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Local Rules of this Court.

It is hereby **ORDERED** that this Order shall apply to any action filed in, transferred to, or removed to this Court which relates to the subject matter at issue in this case.

SO ORDERED. This the 12 day of June, 2025.

  
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JAMES C. DEVER III  
United States District Judge